

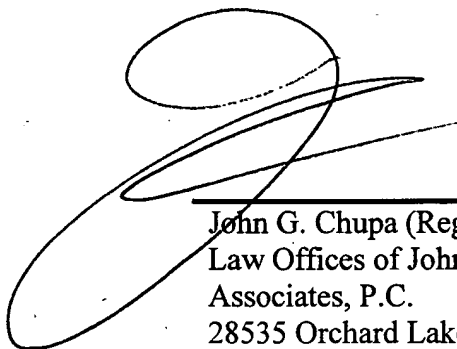
Remarks/Arguments

Applicant's undersigned Attorney thanks the Examiner for a kind and thorough examination of this application. Particularly, Claims 1-6 have been cancelled, Claims 7,8, and 9 are combined, and the amended Claim 7 is therefore allowable. Claims 13-32 are also in condition for allowance. Such allowance was acknowledged by the examiner in the office action and such allowance is requested.

New claim 33 is also allowable over the art of record since it defines an assembly having a cigar rest portion which movably resides between a pair of substantially identical sidewalls, thereby providing a secure area (environment) for the placement of a cigar (see for example Figures 5-6 6). None of the art of record teaches or discloses such an arrangement.

If there are any further questions regarding this matter, please contact the undersigned Attorney at 248-324-7787.

Respectfully submitted,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large loop at the top and a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the bottom.

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I, Meredith Valant, do hereby certify that the foregoing Response to Office Action is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, to the Box Response with Fee, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 28th day of September, 2005.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Meredith Valant', written over a horizontal line.

Meredith Valant